

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2-8 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Without conceding the validity of the Examiner's rejection, claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form. Further, although various clarifying amendments have been made to claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that such amendments do not materially affect the scope of these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from Applicants at this time.

Acknowledgment of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 17, 2006. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2 and 3 for informalities.

As to claim 2, lines 9-10, the Examiner asserts that “a start circuit for generating a high voltage pulse and for superimposing the high voltage pulse on the AC voltage” is repetitive of a recitation in independent claim 1. As to claim 2, line 20, the Examiner asserts that “a controller” should be replaced with --said controller--. However, Applicants respectfully submit that such objections to claim 2 have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1 and the above amendments to claim 2.

As to claim 3, lines 9-11, the Examiner asserts that “a start circuit for generating a high voltage pulse and for superimposing the high voltage pulse on the AC voltage” is repetitive of a recitation in claim 1. However, as amended, claim 3 more clearly recites a plurality of discharge lamp ballast circuits, each including the aforementioned start circuit. Since claim 3 requires multiple start circuits, it is not merely repetitive of the start circuit recited in claim 1.

As to claim 3, line 20, the Examiner asserts that “a controller” should be replaced with --said controller--. However, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1 and the above amendments to claim 3.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw these objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,504,323 to Yuda et al. (hereafter “Yuda”). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 1 and, thus, should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Amendment dated June 28, 2007

Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2007

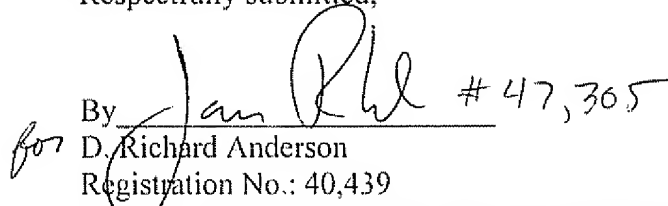
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  #47,305
for D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant